



**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ATTN: HARBOR COMMENTS
805 SW BROADWAY
SUITE 500
PORTLAND, OR 97205**

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 17 2016

EPA-REGION 10

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD ON AN EXPENSIVE AND HIGHLY INVASIVE APPROACH TO CLEANING THE WILLAMETTE RIVER, THE EPA SHOULD REVIEW VARIOUS PROCESSES. FINDING A SOLUTION THAT REMOVES HARMFUL CONTAMINANTS FROM THE RIVER WITHOUT DISRUPTING LOCAL LIFE AND THE ECONOMY SHOULD BE THE ULTIMATE GOAL. DECISIONS BASED ON OLD SCIENCE SHOULD NEVER BE THE GOAL. GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE BY USING UPDATED FACTORS. OLD REPORTS BASED ON DATA COLLECTED IN 2014 DOES NOT REPRESENT THE RIVER'S CURRENT STATE.

THE FINANCIAL IMPACT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES IS ANOTHER CONSIDERATION FOR HOW THIS PROPOSED CLEANUP WILL AFFECT PORTLAND. I'VE OWNED FINE CUT GEMSTONES SINCE 1977. ALTHOUGH I'M VERY CLOSE TO THE WILLAMETTE RIVER, THE CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL NOT DISRUPT MY BUSINESS AS MUCH AS THE TAX INCREASE. WE ALREADY PAY HIGH PROPERTY TAXES AND DO NOT WANT TO ABSORB THE EXPENSE OF A CLEANUP PROJECT THAT MIGHT NOT BE AS SERIOUS AS IT'S BEING PRESENTED.

PLEASE CONSIDER A LESS COSTLY SOLUTION AND USE THE PROPOSED \$1 BILLION FOR WHAT WILL TRULY BENEFIT PORTLAND. FOR EXAMPLE, PROJECTS THAT FUND ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION WILL DO MORE FOR THE CITY THAN THE FEW TEMPORARY JOBS TO CLEAN UP SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AN IMMEDIATE THREAT. I LOOK FORWARD TO A MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR EVERYONE.

SINCERELY,

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PRESIDENT

*534 SW 3rd, Suite 612
Portland, OR 97204*